

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District 721 Foster Street Durham, NC 27701

Meeting Number: 2 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: February 18, 2010

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Bo Glenn- Open Space & Trails Representative
John Monroe- At Large
Will Wilson- At Large
Billy Cooley- Farm Bureau Representative
Melissa English- At Large
Talmage Layton- Falls/Lick Creek VAD
Demetrius Thompson- At Large

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Lynwood Faison- Soil & Water
Jane Korest- Open Space Manager
Wendy Seddon- Open Space & Real-estate
Michelle Wallace- Cooperative Extension
Greg May- Tax Department
Colleen Scarlett- Tax Department
James Sanders – Durham County citizen

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday February 18, 2010, and called to order at 8:02 am by the chair. The meeting was held at the Soil and Water office, the chairman and vice chairman being present.

- 1. Minutes** – A draft copy of January 2010 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Neil Frank to approve the minutes with 1 minor correction. Bo Glenn seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Financial Report-** Lisa Marochak reported that since the last board meeting \$1,000 been added back to the Farmland budget. The farmland plan granter held back 10% of the money until the plan was completed. \$1,000 of the Farmland money was used to pay the consultant of the Farmland Plan last fiscal year.
- 3. Membership Update–** Lisa Marochak reported that the Business Representative, Eno VAD and Little River VAD vacant positions are currently being advertised on Durham County's new TV Show "In Touch with Durham County", and also on the Durham County internet.
Kathryn Spann introduced Melissa English, who is very active with Jordan High School FFA. English is a former Agricultural Teacher with Durham Public Schools and is interested in joining the Farmland Advisory Board. Demetrius Thompson works with Durham Technical Community College as a student activity coordinator, and is also interested in joining the Board. Demetrius Thompson grew up on a farm in Dunn, NC and moved to Durham to in 1992. Melissa English and Demetrius Thompson each spoke to the board about what they do and why they are interested in joining the board. At 8:33am a motion was made by Bo Glenn to go into executive session. Neil Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. At 8:46am the board came out of executive session. A motion was made by Bo Glenn to appoint Demetrius Thompson and Melissa English as At Large members of the Farmland Advisory Board. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

4. **Farmland Plan update-** Jennifer Brooks passed out a copy of the final version of the farmland plan to all members of the board.
Jennifer Brooks reported that she is working on setting up a date to do a presentation of the Farmland Plan to the City Council.
5. **Easement Projects Status Update** – Jane Korest reported on the following
 - **Federal grant cycle** – The due date this year for federal grants was on February 5th. No one informed Durham County or any of our surrounding counties about this new deadline. The Feds are working with the head of the State Programs to figure what they should do about this mix-up. There will probably be an extension granted to the Counties that weren't informed about the new deadline. The Carrington farm will be the easiest to submit since we already have a Board of County Commissioner option on the project.
A Farmland subcommittee meeting is planned for February 24th at 3:30 p.m. to review potential farms to be submitted this grant cycle. A motion was made by Neil Frank for the board to authorize the Farmland review committee to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the Farmland Board. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
6. **Farm Issue Continuing Legal Education Workshop-** Kathryn Spann reported that a Duke Law student is going to help with logistics of the workshop.
7. **County Commissioner/Legislative event planning-** Kathryn Spann reported that invitations have been sent out to local legislators asking them if they would be interested in attending a ½ day or whole day tour of Durham. Durham County State Legislator, Mickey Michaux responded back to the invitation with potential dates that would work for him. Kathryn Spann reported that she is waiting to hear back from a couple more Legislators and then she will set a date for the tour.
Kathryn reported that she is trying to set up a date for a meet and greet with the County Commissioners in the northern part of the county.
8. **Farm Business Plan Workshop** – Michelle Wallace reported that the farm business plan workshop will take place Wednesday nights February 24th-April 7th. The workshop will be held at the Durham Technical Community College North Durham Campus. So far only 1 person has signed up to attend the workshop. Demetrius Thompson reported that there is funding available through Durham Tech. to pay 100% of the cost of the workshop. Michelle Wallace reported that she received a call last night from Jacqueline Mitchell with Durham Tech letting her know that funding is available for up to 7 students. Durham Tech could pay 100% of the cost for 7 adults to attend the workshop. There will be a pre-interview process to see if the candidate qualifies.
9. **Tax Department updates:** Colleen Scarlett reported on the following:
 - The tax department is getting ready to do requalifications of the parcels.

New Business:

1. **School Nutrition/Ag in the Classroom** – Kathryn Spann reported that she just found out about this group of 50+ people that meet together monthly to discuss school nutrition and how it can be improved. They would like to incorporate local grown food into the schools. This group is interested in school gardens.
2. **Urban Farming Group-** Kathryn Spann reported that Gerry Cohn is involved with this group.

3. **Army Corps of Engineer/Master plan surrounding Falls Lake** –Jane Korest reported that in 1981 Army Corps of Engineers created a master plan surrounding Falls Lake. Korest reported that they are in the process of revising the plan and Open Space has been involved with this revision. Open Space passed a resolution.
4. **Community Garden position-** Michelle Wallace reported that the Cooperative Extension is in the process of doing interviews for the part-time Community Garden position.
5. **RAFI** – Kathryn Spann reported that board member Samantha Gasson applied and received a grant from Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI). In the grant application Samantha Gasson proposed encouraging relationships between children interested in farming and those currently farming. Samantha Gasson would like to know if anyone on the board is interested in mentoring a child. If this is something you are interested in please contact Samantha Gasson.

Set Next Meeting Date – March 18, 2010 at 8am

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 10:11 am.

Kathryn Spann
Chairman

Neil Frank
Vice Chairman